



DATE: 14 January 2015

AGENDA ITEM # 2

**TO:** Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM:** Dave Brees, Special Projects Manager

**SUBJECT:** Redwood Grove boardwalk trail stairway access and seating deck

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Provide recommendation to Council regarding the proposed inclusion of the Ridge trail stairway access and seating deck relocation to the Redwood Grove Bank Stabilization Project 14-02

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### **BACKGROUND**

At its October 24, 2014 Regular Meeting, City Council supported the Parks and Recreation Commission's recommendation to increase funding for the Redwood Grove Bank Stabilization Project 14-02. At the meeting, one member of the public expressed concern regarding the relocation of the stairway access from the boardwalk to the Ridge trail. Additionally, a concern regarding the relocation of the seating deck was expressed by four members of the public.

While there was consensus on Council to proceed with the project, there was concern over the issues raised by the public. Due to construction timing constraints of working within the Adobe Creek watershed, Council directed the project to proceed with design and bid solicitation while simultaneously seeking design recommendations from the Parks and Recreation Commission. Council meeting minutes and the written public comments received are included as Attachments A and B.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Ridge trail stairway access and the seating deck currently exist within Redwood Grove. The relocation of the two elements is proposed due to negative hillside erosion impacts, their deteriorated condition and the remote location of the seating deck. The upstream relocation of the two elements is as identified in the concept design plan both the Commission and Council previously approved (Attachment C).

Ridge trail stairway. The Ridge trail is located on the western slope of Redwood Grove. The trail is accessed from the boardwalk or via other points located behind the Halsey house. Its location and access points were identified in the 1980 Redwood Grove Master Plan document. Bank erosion along Adobe Creek is undermining the existing stairway. The stairway needs to be removed and replaced. The proposed stairway maintains existing trail access between the boardwalk and the Ridge trail while relocating the stairway approximately 20 feet further away from Adobe Creek. Attachment D contains the actual proposed location of the stairway.

Seating deck. The seating deck element was also identified in the 1980 Redwood Grove Master Plan. The seating deck is intended to provide both active and passive recreational opportunities to park users amongst the redwood trees. The seating deck serves as a teaching platform for classes and camps as well as a location to sit and enjoy a picnic or quiet time in the park.

Even though the seating deck has provided positive recreational opportunities, it has also attracted undesired nighttime negative activities. The proposed plan will relocate the seating deck upstream in relative close proximity to the park's access road. Due to site considerations, the actual placement of the seating area has been adjusted to incorporate it adjacent to the boardwalk itself.

Overlook. A small eight foot by ten foot overlook area adjacent to the new bridge location is also included in the proposed project. The overlook will contain interpretive signage identifying the bioengineering elements of the bank stabilization efforts and a six foot seating bench. A guardrail around the overlook will be installed due to the deck's elevation above of the existing grade. While the overlook was not specifically called out by Council or the concerned residents, the Commission should also provide a recommendation regarding the overlook program element.

The design and permitting process for the project is currently on schedule. Construction bid solicitation will commence in February 2015 with the intent to award the construction contract in late March or early April 2015. All of the proposed elements of the project are within the cost estimate of the approved \$727,000 project budget. The Commission's recommendations on the inclusion/exclusion of the Ridge trail stairway, seating area and overlook will be presented at the time Council considers award of the construction contract.

Attachments:

- A. October 28, 2014 City Council Meeting Minutes
- B. October 24, 2014 Written Public Comments Received
- C. Approved Redwood Grove Bank Stabilization Project 14-02 Concept Plan
- D. Redwood Grove Bank Stabilization Project 14-02 75% Construction Drawing